



30 South Rountree Street  
P. O. Box 678  
Metter, GA 30439

April 14, 2017

Kris Monteith  
Acting Wireline Competition Bureau Chief  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: *Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet*, GN Docket No. 14-28, *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, *Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime*, CC Docket No. 01-92**

Dear Ms. Monteith:

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC" or "Commission") *Open Internet Order*,<sup>1</sup> Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Pineland" or the "Company"), Study Area Code 220377 (GA), hereby notifies the Wireline Competition Bureau ("WCB" or "Bureau") of its intention to cease offering its DSL and Consumer Broadband-Only Loop ("CBOL") broadband Internet transmission services as separate components of its broadband Internet access service effective July 1, 2017. As such, the transmission components will not be provided as separate regulated services and will only be provided as part of the complete broadband Internet access service that the Company offers to end user customers within its Georgia serving area, either through the Company or through an affiliated company.

Pineland currently provides DSL and CBOL broadband Internet transmission services as tariffed offerings pursuant to NECA Tariff F.C.C. No. 5. The only customer for the Company's broadband Internet transmission services is the Company's affiliate nonregulated ISP. Notice to the affiliate ISP was provided this date by interoffice memorandum that the Company will discontinue the offering of broadband Internet transmission services as separate components of its broadband Internet access service effective July 1, 2017.

The Commission made clear in the *Rate-of-Return Connect America Fund Order*,<sup>2</sup> as well as the *Clarification Order*,<sup>3</sup> that a rate-of-return carrier could make the retail offering

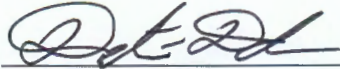
<sup>1</sup> *Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet*, GN Docket No. 14-28, Report and Order on Remand, Declaratory Ruling and Order, 30 FCC Rcd 5601, ¶ 460 and n. 1378 (2015).

<sup>2</sup> *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, et al., Report and Order, Order and Order on Reconsideration and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 16-33, ¶ 194, n. 428 (rel. Mar. 30, 2016).

described in the foregoing first paragraph, and thus the revenues associated with the broadband Internet access transmission would no longer be subject to the federal universal service assessment pursuant to FCC Form 499-A.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions,

Sincerely,



Dustin Durden  
General Manager/Executive V.P.

cc: Pamela Arluk, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau Pricing Policy Division  
Special Assistant for Telecommunications at the Department of Defense  
The Office of the Honorable Nathan Deal, Governor of Georgia  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
National Exchange Carrier Association

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<sup>3</sup> *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, et al., Order DA 16-661, ¶ 25 (WCB, rel. June 15, 2016) (citing the *Open Internet Order*).

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

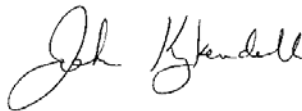
I hereby certify that the foregoing Notification of Discontinuance of broadband Internet transmission services as separate components of its broadband Internet access service was served this 14th day of April, 2017, by mailing true and correct copies thereof, postage prepaid, to the following persons:

Secretary of Defense  
Attn: Special Assistant for Telecommunications  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

The Honorable Nathan Deal  
Office of the Governor  
Georgia State Capitol  
206 Washington Street  
Suite 203, State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Mr. Reece McAlister  
Executive Secretary  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
244 Washington Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

National Exchange Carrier Association  
80 South Jefferson Road  
Whippany, NJ 07981



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